

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

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R 220134Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 134613

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: TGEN

SUBJECT: SHIPMENTS OF NUCLEAR FUEL TO INDIA

1. WE HAVE INFORMED JOINT ATOMIC ENERGY COMMITTEE OF OUR ACTION ON ENRICHED URANIUM AND HAVE PROVIDED COPY OF LETTER TO SETHNA. FOR TIME BEING, WE DO NOT PLAN FURTHER CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

2. FYI: DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN PROVIDED FOLLOWING GUIDANCE FOR USE IF ASKED ABOUT MATTER. SO FAR NO QUESTIONS RAISED: (YOU SHOULD CONSIDER THIS FYI ONLY FOR PRESENT.)

QUESTION: IS IT TRUE THAT THE U.S. IS SHIPPING URANIUM TO INDIA DESPITE THE INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST AND THAT A SHIPMENT WAS LOADED IN NEW YORK JANUARY 19?

ANSWER: TWO POWER REACTORS OF 200 MW EACH WERE BUILT AT TARAPUR IN INDIA PURSUANT TO THE 1963 US-INDIAN AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION WITH AID FINANCING. WE HAVE A CONFIDENTIAL

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30-YEAR CONTRACT FOR PROVISION OF ENRICHED URANIUM FOR

THESE REACTORS AND HAVE BEEN FUELING THE REACTORS SINCE 1968 WHEN THEY STARTED. IN NOVEMBER 1973, THE INDIAN A.E.C. REQUESTED THE US A.E.C. TO PROVIDE FIVE ADDITIONAL SHIPMENTS BETWEEN JUNE 1974 AND APRIL 1975. THE US A.E.C. AGREED AND AN EXPORT LICENSE COVERING THESE

FIVE SHIPMENTS WAS ISSUED ON MAY 16, 1974. A FIRST SHIPMENT OF 6,150 KILOGRAMS WAS LOADED ON A SHIP IN NEW YORK CITY JUNE 19.

THE ENRICHED URANIUM IS COVERED BY I.A.E.A. SAFEGUARDS ON TARAPUR WHICH PROVIDE FOR PHYSICAL INSPECTION AND OTHER SPECIFIED CONTROLS. ON THE BASIS OF THESE INSPECTIONS, THE MOST RECENT IN MARCH, 1974, WE ARE FULLY CONFIDENT THERE HAS BEEN NO DIVERSION FOR USE IN NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES.

OUR LONG STANDING POLICY IN THIS REGARD IS THAT:

(A) THE USE IN OR FOR ANY NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE OF ANY MATERIAL OR EQUIPMENT SUBJECT TO UNITED STATES AGREEMENTS FOR COOPERATION IN CIVIL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY IS PRECLUDED; AND

(B) THAT UNDER THE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS RELATED TO SUCH AGREEMENTS FOR COOPERATION, THE IAEA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR VERIFYING, INTER ALIA, THAT THE SAFEGUARDED MATERIAL IS NOT USED IN OR FOR ANY NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE.

(C) THE CONTINUED COOPERATION OF THE UNITED STATES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD IS DEPENDENT ON THE ASSURANCE THAT THESE UNDERSTANDINGS WILL CONTINUE TO BE RESPECTED IN THE FUTURE.

IN LIGHT OF THE INDIAN TEST, WE HAVE THEREFORE ASKED THE INDIANS FOR REASSURANCE THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO RESPECT OUR POLICY IN THE FUTURE.

AS WE SAID, WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THE INDIANS
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HAVE NOT ACTED IN A MANNER FULLY CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY IN HANDLING US-SUPPLIED MATERIAL.

QUESTION: WHEN WAS THE APPROACH MADE TO THE INDIANS AND BY WHOM?

ANSWER: JUNE 19 BY UNDER SECRETARY SISCO WITH AMBASSADOR KAUL. KISSINGER

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